with the Mother Dairy's Fruit and Vegetable plant at Mangolpuri, Delhi who are not depositing PF under the EPF Scheme, 1952. Legal action under 7A and 14 of the EPF and MP Act, has been initiated.

Criticism of India's Economic Liberalisation Programme by ASEAN

*332. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that India's economic liberalisation programme came in for heavy criticism at the recent ASEAN meeting;

(b) if so, what steps the Ministry of External Affairs has taken to prevent such criticism on economic issues in future;

(c) the role played by the Ministry in creating goodwill which can translate into foreign investments in the country; and

(d) what is the details analysis of various critical statements made against India at the above meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) No, Sir. There was no criticism of India's economic liberalisation programme at the recent ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) in Kuala Lumpur. In fact, at the PMC all the ASEAN countries appreciated the progress made in Indo-ASEAN economic cooperation including in trade, investment and infrastructure in the past year since India became a full Dialogue Partner of ASEAN.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

(c) The Government has been actively involved in promoting foreign investment into India particularly through our Missions abroad. Encouraging foreign investors to invest in India is a concerted and ongoing effort. The steps undertaken for this purpose involve publicity, seminars, interaction with business leaders abroad and providing guidance and information to foreign investors at various stages as also exchanges between apex chambers of commerce and industry and joint venture partners.

Mismanagement in the Rashtriya Ayurveda Sansthan

*333. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in Rajasthan Patrika, Jaipur, dated the 20th June, 1997, under the caption "Rashtriya Ayurveda Sansthan Kuparbandhan Ka Paryay";

(b) if so what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

There are ten sanctioned posts for Professors of these nine posts have been lying vacant due to retirement of the incumbents in position/non-filling up newly created posts. Advertisements have been made from time to time for recruitment. However, due to non availability of suitable candidates the posts could not be filled up. Meanwhile NIA Service Rules were processed for amendments and finally amended rules were notified on 29.3.97. Vacancies have now been again advertised and applications received.

There are 38 Nursing staff pharmacists in the Hospital to cater to the needs of nursing. The staff is available round the clock.

Out of 12 Departments Post-graduate courses are run in 9 disciplines of Ayurveda. Though intake capacity of these

disciplines is 5 candidates each, actual number of candidates depends on the qualifying marks in the PG entrance test conducted by the Rajasthan University. So there could be a short fall in the number of PG students against the total strength.

With regard to Physicians promoted to the post of junior Lecturers, it is submitted that the Governing Body of the Institute, in its meeting held in 1992 recommended an upward revision of the scale of pay of the erstwhile physicians Demonstrators. The recommendation was accepted and physicians were allowed the pay-scale of Rs. 2000-3500 and redesignated as Junior Lecturers. Thus they were not given any undue promotion.

Teachers right from Professor to Junior Lecturers are allocated outdoor and indoor duties. During evenings, they conduct theory classes along with research and other activities in their respective Departments till 4.00 P.M. in the College. All these teachers are required to attend to the IPD wards. After office hours, P.G. Scholars and Interns are available in IPD wards. Besides, the Dy. Superintendent, who resides in the campus is also available round the clock. Another senior Associate Professor also resides near the hospital and is also available for any emergency. Both of them have been provided with telephone facilities One RMO is also available in the hospital throughout the office hours. In addition, a Hostel Warden also stays in the campus for emergency duties.

Like some Ayurvedic colleges, the Institute does not permit modern medicines for handling emergency cases except for Anaesthesia. Therefore, emergencies of IPD that can be handled with Ayurvedic medicines only are entertained. For this purpose, the hospital staff is always available.

The average daily attendance of patients in OPD is 208 for which the patients time of OPD from 9.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M. is quite sufficient in both hospitals of the Institute. The Arogyashala OPD has 9-10 chambers with different specialities and 9-10 doctors at a time are available in the OPD.

As regards availability of medicines 90 types of medicines are earmarked for OPD supply and out of this, 75 to 80 per cent are available on any given day. Whatever medicines are available in the OPD are issued to the patients. Moreover, it is the discretion of the physicians to prescribe any medicine for treatment considering the nature of ailment. In such cases where medicines are not available in the OPD, patients are required to purchase it from the open market

For supervising the manufacture of medicines in the Pharmacy, there is a Pharmacist. For overall supervision and monitoring of the process, an Asstt. Professor of the Department of Rasashastra is nominated as Incharge of the Pharmacy. So it is not correct to say that the work of Pharmacy is being run by Group 'D' staff.

Many medicines required for OPD and IPD and those required for research purposes are manufactured in the Pharmacy. During the year 1996-97 125 types of medicines worth Rs. 10.05 lakhs are manufactured, these include single and compound drugs preparations.

Patients with chronic diseases are admitted in the Hospital for prolonged Ayurvedic treatment Patients are admitted by Physicians after considering the diseases and the treatment required. The Institute Library is one of the best Libraries amongst Ayurvedic Colleges in the Country There are 13806 Text Books and 936 Bounded Volumes of various Journals available in the Library 108 Journals and Periodicals are being subscribed annually. Apart from this, there are 57 Video Cassettes on various Medical, Surgical and other problems

available in the Library. The Books purchased 25 years ago have of course become old however new editions are added every year.

Hostels were got constructed as per the necessity and demand. Since the Pre-Ayurveda Test could not be held in the University for many years, rooms remain vacant. Now that regular admissions have started, rooms will not remain vacant.

There is Budget provision of Rs. 4.24 crores for the financial year 1997-98 for meeting both Plan and Non-Plan expenditure of the Institute. Though the Plan provision of Rs. 2.00 crores is quite adequate for Plan activities, additional funds may be required for Non-Plan expenditure if the teaching posts are filled up during the current year.

Purchase of equipment during the last 20 years amounted to Rs. 57.35 lakhs. Out of this Electric Bhatti Unit of Pharmacy worth Rs. 17.00 lakhs was erected through the State P.W.D. as Deposit Work.

On an average 8-10 operations are conducted every month with available equipment in the operation theatre. So it is not correct to say that the Operation Theatre is closed down.

The State P.W.D. carries out construction works in the Institute as Deposit Works. The Institute releases the amount demanded by the PWD and is not directly involved in any manner with construction. All the works like inviting of tenders, award of contract etc. are done by the State P.W.D.

The Director of the Institute is a member of many Governing Bodies/ Committees in Govt. of India, CCIM, UGC, various other Universities, Research Councils etc. Apart from all these, he is being frequently called to the Department of ISM & H, Govt. of India at New Delhi for various official matters. On an average, he has to leave the Headquarter for about 6-8 days a month. But this does not affect the day-to-day work of the Institute as the next senior person is available for attending to his duties.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee has identified certain problems plaguing the institute viz. admissions not being done regularly, examinations not being conducted in time, there being no national character to the Institute since students are admitted from Rajasthan and nearby areas only, the course of BAMS is stretched over to 7-8 years because of laxity on the part of the University in not conducting examination in time etc.

Concerted efforts are being made by the Govt. of India to sort out the problems faced by the Institute in a time bound manner.

Rationalisation of the prevention of food adulteration act

*334. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act have been found to be harsh and unjustified by the hotel industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the hotel industry has demanded rationalisation of these provisions; and

(d) if so, what has been the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India has submitted a detailed note giving their recommendations/ observations on the Report of the Task Force on Food Laws under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice E. S. Venkataramaiah, ex-chief Justice of India.